

AN INTRIGUING clash on paper, but conditions and lack of inspiration contrived to make Friday's North versus South prestige friendly at Loakes Park a goalless non-event.

Scarborough from the Northern Premier League must have felt a little strange playing on the Friday before F.A. Trophy final day at Wembley, having reached the final four times in the last five years. Their party were down as spectators on this occasion.

Reporters this year will be spared the difficulties of differentiating between Scarborough's two Dunns, Harry the club skipper and Harry A., who was given a fictitious initial to distinguish them.

Thankfully neither appeared at Loakes Park, as the northerners fielded a number of guest players. Best known among them would be Derek Downing the Hartlepool's veteran, who has played for several league sides and the ex-Hull stalwart Chris Simpkin.

Wanderers were virtually

Wycombe Wands 0, Scarborough 0 Report by PAUL GITTINGS

at full strength. They took the opportunity to give Flackwell Heath youngster Chris Smith a chance in goal, while British Colleges representative Dave Barnes filled in at the centre of the Blues defence with Alan Phillips. The performances of these two were the only plusses of the evening. The match once again illustrated Blues' lack of power up front.

Heavy afternoon rain made the pitch exceptionally greasy. The majority of the Scarborough party seeing the famous slope for the first time, echoed the usual quips of needing one leg shorter than the other, but showed their experience by adapting quicker than most to the Loakes Park vagaries.

NEAT SKILLS

The visitors generally looked more likely to score in the first period, with Downing, the tricky John Woodall and Ken Ellis dis-

playing neat skills.

Ellis, a lively striker, signed from Belgium Second Division club Ostend this season, might have grabbed a brace before the interval. He volleyed a bouncing ball inches over in the 14th minute and when Downing intercepted a bad pass from Graham Mackenzie came within a whisker of touching in his dangerous cross from the bye-line.

Wanderers well served at the back by the ever reliable Phillips and Barnes, created little in attack however. Probably the best chance fell to Tony Horseman in the seventh minute, when put through by Mackenzie, but he snatched his shot and screwed it wide.

David Chapman, the Scarborough goalkeeper and their player of the year, was untroubled until the 43rd minute when Mackenzie's fierce drive skidded straight at him. He was also relieved to see Bobby Davies' shot cum-cross nestle in the roof of the net seconds later.

Scarborough made wholesale substitutions within minutes of the resumption, doubtless anx-

ious to give all their party a run-out. Woodall, Ellis and Martin Harris, the Workington midfielder made their exits, as Leigh Appleton, Greg Fenton and trainer's son John Bowman appeared.

Bowman's first kick of the evening nearly saw him on the scoresheet, but for an excellent save from Smith, who was well positioned.

Horseman and the hard working Dylan Evans were substituted in the 60th minute by Howard Kennedy and Dave Bullis. The Wanderers' substitution had the same effect, but Paul Birdseye sliced their best chance of the half wide.

Fenton raced to the bye-line and klflocked over a low raking cross, which everyone missed and his fellow substitute Bowman forced Smith to fumble a low shot, after Phillips had made his only blunder of the evening and presented Scarborough with the ball.

Wycombe's last real chance came when Barnes sent Harris clear, but he lacked the confidence to move in closer before shooting and his effort went wide of the near post.

WYCOMBE: Smith, Birdseye, Davies, Barnes, Phillips, Priestley, Mackenzie, Holifield, Harris, Evans (sub Bullis 60 mins), Horseman (sub Kennedy 60 mins).

SCARBOROUGH: Chapman, Fountain, Picard, Marshall, Abbey, Simpkin, Harris (sub Fenton 53 mins), Downing, Woodall (sub Bowman 53 mins), Ellis (sub Appleton 53 mins), Dale.

A BRILLIANT all-round performance by Bobby Davies took Wycombe Wanderers to a comfortable victory over Banbury at Loakes Park on Thursday night and enhanced the side's chances of finishing top of the Shaw and Kilburn Floodlit League, writes Michael Knox.

Davies not only had a hand in all three goals, he also produced a last gasp goal-line clearance to prevent Banbury taking the lead against the run of play in the first half.

With a spate of games in front of his side, manager John Reardon rested several regular members of the side and gave games to two youngsters, Phil Bycroft, from Abingdon, played at right back while former schoolboy international David Barnes, of St Paul's College, Cheltenham, joined Alan Phillips in the middle of the back.

This was a match between the two leading teams in the league, but it was a mystery how Banbury had achieved such a high position. Fielding a near full-strength side, the Southern Leaguers looked completely outclassed by Wanderers' reshuffled team.

Wycombe dominated the first half but Banbury had the two best chances. Davies cleared off the line from Terry Evans while Cliff Campbell headed wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Blues snatched the lead in the 51st minute when Banbury goalkeeper Martin Thomas failed to hold a curling cross by Davies and Derek Harris slipped the ball home.

In the 70th minute Davies powered a header against the bar. The ball shot down into the goalmouth and Phillips turned it across the line.

Banbury pulled a goal back in injury time through Derek Evans but Wanderers immediately replied when Davies' pass was headed into the path of Tony Horseman who fired it in.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, P. Bycroft, R. Davies, D. Barnes, A. Phillips, R. Day, C. Mackenzie, H. Kennedy, D. Harris, D. Evans (sub: D. Bullis 79 mins), A. Horseman.

BANBURY: M. Thomas, W. Haggle, P. Lines, D. Evans, D. Matthews, J. Worthington (sub: K. Blayney 63 mins), S. Montgomery, A. Pollard, C. Campbell (sub: I. Bowyer 74 mins), T. Evans, T. Galloway.

Referee: R. Chown (H. Wycombe).

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